



### ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM:

#### Activities of the Oral Health Program

The OHP has added a topic on the website for non-certificate courses. The courses under this topic are meant to be used as additional resources for information related to dentistry. There are two courses available: 1) *Risk Assessment for Dental Caries among Infants and Children by Pediatricians*, and 2) *Dentistry and Basic Non-Opioid Prescribing in Pain*. These courses may be found online at: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/27761.htm>. (See **Non-CE Courses**.)

#### Continuing Education Courses Available Through IN-TRAIN

*Dentistry and Basic Non-Opioid Prescribing in Pain* is still available as a continuing education course using IN-Train. Dentists can earn three credit hours upon satisfactory course completion. Instructions for taking this course can be found by following the link provided on the OHP website: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/26868.htm>. (See **CE Courses**.) If you have any questions about completing this course, please email Linda Hillers at [LHillers@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:LHillers@isdh.IN.gov).

#### Upcoming Events

The next Indiana Oral Health Coalition (IOHC) meeting will be 10 a.m. to noon Friday, June 1, at the Indiana State Department of Health, Fifth floor, Conference Room 5T.

#### Health Awareness Months As They Pertain To Dental Care

**April is National Facial Protection Month.** The American Dental Association encourages dentists to emphasize to patients the importance of protective gear for sports and other activities that might result in facial and dental injuries. For more information on mouth protection please visit the following website from the AAOMS: <http://www.aaoms.org/media/press-releases/five-dental-organizations-team-up-for-national-facial-protection-month>.



**May is National Older Americans Month.** Oral diseases and conditions are common among these Americans who grew up without the benefit of community water fluoridation and other fluoride products. For more information on Adult Oral Health please visit the following website from the Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC): [https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/publications/factsheets/adult\\_oral\\_health/adult\\_older.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/publications/factsheets/adult_oral_health/adult_older.htm).

**June is National Myasthenia Gravis Month.** Myasthenia gravis (MG) is an autoimmune neuromuscular disorder that presents challenges for both the dental practitioner and the patient. Facial and masticatory muscles may be involved and complicate dental care and treatment. For more information, please visit the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America at <http://myasthenia.org>



### ORAL HEALTH TOPIC:

#### Effects of Smoking on Oral Health

You know smoking is bad for your health, so it should be no surprise that cigarettes and chewing tobacco are harmful to your oral health. Quitting is the only way to decrease the risk of these and other tobacco-related health problems.<sup>1</sup>

Gum (periodontal) disease is an infection of the gums and can affect the bone structure that supports your teeth. In severe cases, it can make your teeth fall out. Smoking is an important cause of severe gum disease in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

More information for this topic may be found at the links below:



✓ Smoking and Oral Health

<https://www.dentalhealth.org/tell-me-about/topic/sundry/smoking-and-oral-health>

✓ Smoking and Tobacco Cessation

<http://www.ada.org/en/member-center/oral-health-topics/smoking-and-tobacco-cessation>

✓ Smoking and Dental Problems

<https://www.verywell.com/smoking-and-dental-problems-1059118>

### REFERENCES:

1. [Smoking and Tobacco](#). ADA. Retrieved 3/1/2018
2. [Smoking and Dental Health](#). CDC. Retrieved 4/18/2018

### REMINDERS:

The **Oral Health Topic** section of the newsletter is suitable for the general public and may be shared with your patients or people in your community interested in oral health. We welcome any suggestions for topics you would like to see covered in this section. Email suggestions to Linda Hillers at [LHillers@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:LHillers@isdh.IN.gov).

These newsletters are archived on the OHP website at: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/18695.htm> under the **Newsletters** section. This website contains other information about oral health that may be of interest to you.

Note: If you do not want to receive this newsletter in the future, please contact Linda Hillers at [LHillers@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:LHillers@isdh.IN.gov) or Patty Morris at [PMorris@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:PMorris@isdh.IN.gov).

**Disclaimer:** The materials provided in the Oral Health Topic's section are for informational purposes only. Individuals should see an oral health professional to discuss any specific oral health issues.